

JUL 09 2001<sup>2</sup>

GROUP 3700

in [the] <sup>2</sup> a rear region of the boot, over about one half of the length of the sole and adjacent the heel of a wearer,

wherein the rest of the sole is flexible so as to allow the foot to flex during walking, and

wherein the rigid part <sup>1,5</sup> [of the sole] includes an [interfacing] <sup>6,7</sup> interlocking surface which [interfaces] interlocks with a binding of an alpine ski or in-line roller skate thus firmly fixing the heel portion against flexing with respect to the flexible sole.

3. (twice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein [a] the rigid part (4 ;5) encloses [the] a heel of the wearer [and is rigidly secured to the rigid part (1) of the sole].

5. (thrice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rigid part (5) [of the upper] has at least one cutout (7, 14), which engages the alpine ski or skate binding.

8. (twice amended) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rigid part (1) [of the sole] has a profiled part (6, 7 ; 6, 8 ; 11) of standard length which engages a ski or skate binding irrespective of the boot size.

In the Specification:

On page 3, line 23, please replace "withstanding" with --resisting--.

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REMARKS

The Examiner states "it is not clear what element the 'interface' is referring to." The Examiner further asks "[w]hat language is he using to describe the bearing